

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10, 11, 14 and 20.

Please amend claims 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 as follows:

B2 7. (Twice Amended) A device for the continuous and automatic measurement of [measuring] the concentration and activity of enzyme[s] in liquids in a vessel, said device having a column for treating a sample having said enzyme [characterized in that there is provided a] wherein said column has [filled with] a chromatographic carrier [treated with a substance capable of] for specifically binding such enzyme inhibitors [which] corresponding to at least one enzyme in the sample, a valve/pump assembly [arrangement] connected [in series] to the end of the column so as to bring at least a part of the sample into contact with a substrate for reaction therewith, resulting in a cleavage product [fill at least one vessel with a substrate and at least part of the sample], and a [detector for measuring the increase] means for detecting the activity of at least one enzyme [per unit of time of at least one cleavage product].

8. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 7 wherein [characterized in that] the column can be used repeatedly as there is an excess of the substance corresponding to the capacity of the column.

9. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 7 wherein [characterized in that] the column is exchangeable.

B3 ²² 12. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim ²¹ 31 [11] wherein [characterized in that the] said control device works photometrically.

B4 15. (Twice Amended) A device according to claim 30 [14] wherein [characterized in that] the means for measuring the degree of dilution of the discharged sample can [said arrangement is able to] measure the volume of liquids.

17. (Amended) A device according to claim 7 wherein [characterized in that it enables, by means of] the valve/pump assembly performs [arrangement,] the mixing of a measuring buffer to the said sample to be measured[, and if need be] to the column buffer and [to] the substrate [in the trial vessel (5) as] to produce definite experimental conditions.

B5 18. (Twice Amended) A device according to Claim 7 wherein [characterized in that] the detector includes a fluorimeter.

19. (Twice Amended) A device according to Claim 7 further includes [characterized in] means to guarantee a constant temperature in the [trial test] vessel.

21. (Twice Amended) A device according to Claim 7 further including [characterized in] at least one valve to pass a washing [cleaning] buffer at least through the column and the valve-/pump assembly [arrangement].

B6 22. (Twice Amended) A device according to Claim 7 further including [characterized in] a processor to run and control the filing of the vessel with sample and substrate, [sample-feeding and the column buffer-feeding,] [the degree of dilution of the sample to be measured,] the mixing and charging of the [trial] vessel[s] and the detection and evaluation of the concentration-increase per unit of time of at least one of the cleavage products of the substrate.

Please add new Claims 29, 30, 31 and 32 as follows:

B7 Sub D 3---29. A device for measuring the activity of enzymes in liquid in a vessel, said device having a column, said column having a chromatographic carrier having a substance capable of binding an enzyme inhibitor corresponding to at least one enzyme in a sample, a valve/pump assembly between said column and said vessel for filling said vessel with a substrate and a sample, said sample and said substrate reacting to form a cleavage product, a detector for measuring the increase of the concentration per unit of time of said cleavage product, and a means for enabling the passage of said sample through said column or outside column as desired.---

Sub c1 ---30. > A device for measuring the activity of enzymes in liquid in a vessel said device having a column, said column carrying a chromatographic carrier a substance capable of binding an enzyme inhibitor corresponding to at least one enzyme in a sample, said column being connected to a sample reservoir so as to discharge into a vessel, a substrate source being connected for discharge into said vessel and reaction with said sample thereby releasing a cleavage product, a detector for measuring the increase of the concentration per unit of time in said vessel of said cleavage product, and further including a means for measuring the degree of dilution of the discharged sample.

B7 --31. A device for measuring the activity of enzymes in liquid in a vessel, said device having a column, said column being exchangeable and filled with a chromatographic carrier treated with a substance having binding a enzyme inhibitor which correspond to at least one enzyme in a sample, a valve/pump assembly having a supply tube connected in series to a sample reservoir so as to fill a vessel with a buffer and a sample, a substrate source connected to said vessel for discharge of a substrate into said vessel for reaction with said sample, thereby releasing a cleavage product, and a detector for measuring the increase of the concentration per unit of time of at least one said cleavage product, further including a control device connected in series to the column for monitoring the purity of the buffer discharging the sample from the column.

B7
--32. A device for the continuous and automatic measurement of the concentration and activity of enzyme inhibitors in liquids in a vessel, said device having a column for treating a sample having said enzyme inhibitors wherein said column has a chromatographic carrier for specifically binding an enzyme corresponding to at least one enzyme inhibitor in the sample, a valve/pump assembly connected to the end of the column so as to bring at least a part of the sample into contact with a substrate for reaction therewith, resulting in a cleavage product with a substrate and at least part of the sample, and a means for detecting the activity of at least one enzyme inhibitor.

REMARKS

Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for his indication of claims 11-15 and 20 as allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejections and to include all the limitations to the base claim. Applicant has rewritten these claims as new claims 29, 30, and 31, corresponding to claims 11, 14, and 20, respectively.

In the above identified Office Action the Examiner has indicated that the application does not contain an abstract of the disclosures required by the rules. Applicant hereby points to the Preliminary Amendment which should have enclosed an abstract. In the event that such abstract was missing from the initially filed papers, Applicant hereby encloses a copy of the abstract which has already been submitted.

In addition, the Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of certain informalities. Applicant has corrected these informalities by the above amendments.